

'The Ribos Operation' is another Robert Holmes script introducing a new female companion, and these always seem to offer a tailormade spanking opportunity. The new companion and the Doctor always somehow get off on the wrong foot in a Holmes script: Jo ruins his experiment in 'Terror of the Autons' and Sarah gets told to make the coffee in 'The Time Warrior', but Romana's introduction is a real doozie. They argue right from the start, with Romana arrogantly putting down the Doctor for what she sees as his academic failings, and the Doctor calling attention to her youth and inexperience. The tension is all there in the way he reacts to her modifying the TARDIS console (to put the hole in for the tracer), and how she keeps trying to psychoanalyze him. I barely need to change a line of dialog until we get to the moment when he cracks: 'This isn't working,' he says on screen, but in my version it's more like 'That does it!' I am also going to capitalize on one thing. This scene is one of very few in 'Doctor Who' where a hairbrush appears on screen: Romana uses it to brush down her hair, but it seems a shame not to put it to use on her other end too.

Romana is oblivious to the danger she's in. 'Whatever do you mean, Doctor?' she asks.

'Well, *you* would probably say that you're going to have a transfemural experience leading to severe ambogluteal dysfunction.' Romana looks blank. The Doctor smiles: now she knows what it's like to be blinded with unnecessary jargon. 'It means that, Time Lady or not, I am going to take you across my lap and spank you until you can't sit down on your elegant bottom! Give me that hairbrush!'

So saying, he snatches the stout, wooden-backed brush from her hand and takes her by the wrist. A quick tug pitches her effortlessly forward as he sits down, and she lands sprawling facedown across his knee.

'I don't think you've fully considered the risk you're taking, Doctor,' says Romana, apparently unfazed by her inelegant new position.

'Indeed?' asks the Doctor firmly.

'Acting out your aggressive phantasies will only exacerbate your incipient psychofugal trauma,' says Romana authoritatively. 'It won't be therapeutic at all, Doctor. You could be on the edge of a complete mental breakdown. You're familiar with the literature on the case of President Pangrek IV, of course.'

'I don't need book-learning to recognize someone who needs taking down a peg or three,' says the Doctor. 'And I'm about to teach you a lesson you won't learn in any book!'

His right hand reaches across to the hem of her long white dress. He draws it up, leaving it as a fold of crumpled fabric around her waist. Her panties are as elegant as the rest of her outfit: seamless, almost edgeless, dazzlingly white and perfectly moulded to the curvature of her bottom from the tip of the cleft to the crease where her round cheeks arc down to join the top of her legs.

'Now, Doctor,' says Romana. 'Ludic phantasy is ludic phantasy, but is it really necessary to expose my undergarments?'

The Doctor gives an irritated sigh. Romana has no idea that he is

about to go through with his threat. There's only one thing for it...

SMACK! The flat back of the hairbrush cracks down across the bright white curves of her bottom. Romana yells in disbelief, but before she can say anything the brush comes down with another hard SMACK! Her dark eyes widen with the realization of what is happening to her, and she purses her lips to say something, but, SMACK!, what flies out is an involuntary yelp of inarticulate discomfort. SMACK! She reaches behind her to block the assault, but the Doctor's hand snakes out to intercept, and her wrist is held firmly in the small of her back as the brush descends again. SMACK! And so the haughty but upended Time Lady gets a good, sound spanking, and there's nothing she can say or do to stop it.

'There are one or two things we have to establish if we're going to work together,' says the Doctor briskly as he sets her on her feet. 'One, I'm in charge.'

'Yes, Doctor.'

'Two, I know more about the ways of the universe than you do.'

'Yes, Doctor.'

'Three, any further misbehavior, and you will be spanked. Hard.'

'But Doctor...' Romana can only think of the Doctor's companion Leela, who was publicly spanked in the Panopticon when he brought her to Gallifrey. The case became notorious. How could he possibly subject her, a Time Lady, to such an indignity? But she holds her tongue as the Doctor briskly raises the hairbrush again. 'Yes, Doctor,' she says.

And so the Doctor goes to check the coordinates and trace the first segment of the Key to the planet Ribos, and the story can go on its way as televised.